

FILE=MRACBYLW

D=MISC.WP

SYS=PRP WRITE

'5/6/93

Comments and data re:MRAC BYLAWS

After reading and analyzing the 8 page Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' By Laws ten times I make the following remarks:

We evidently do not have a club Constitution , only Club By Laws. This according to "PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICES" (see Footnote *a) is acceptable.

Comments about the By Laws

They are poorly organized and written in a way that does not make for easy interpretation or understanding.

It has sections that contradict other sections.

It does not give the date these By Laws were accepted.

Many sections contain much unnecessary and confusing verbiage

The By Laws ARTICLES are not in standard (accepted) order Based on standard practices here is the names and order in which the By Law Articles should appear:

Preamble - if so desired.

Article I - NAME (of organization)

Article II - OBJECT (Purposes)

Article III- MEMBERSHIP (Kinds,Qualification,Dues,ETC))

Article IV - OFFICERS (Term,Duties,How elected,ETC.)

Article V - MEETINGS (Kinds,Place,Times,Quorum,ETC.)

Article VI - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY (Who's)

Other Articles if necessary - added here

Article Last #- AMENDMENTS or REVISIONS (How,in detail)

In our By Laws under "PURPOSE" reference is made to purposes of the corporation. What are these purposes ? And.. we should probably update and streamline the other purposes listed.

If we want a PREAMBLE can precede Article I.

MEMBERSHIP - should be Art.#III not #I. DO we need SIX classes of membership ? At present we do not list all SIX. Also - it is normal in most By Laws to specify the dues and time period under MEMBERSHIP.We do not do this.

MEETINGS - Should be #V not #III. Our Section 4 QUORUM "difficult to rule on Quorum", based on sections language. We could also be more specific in sections 1 thru 3 "General membership" so as not to confuse these meetings with Board meetings.

Our Article IV and #V should be combined under Article IV - OFFICERS. It is now quite lengthy can we shorten ?

Our Article VI and VII should be combined and become Article VII CONTRACTS/FINANCIAL . This should be re-done. Is it all necessary ?

Today, it is normal practice to have a set of "POLICIES" - over and above the By Laws . These Policies cover rules on "day-to-day" type items. They can be easily amended or new ones created as needed. Usually by the Board.
All of the Article on CONTACTS/FINANCIAL could be covered under policy.

I believe we should REVISE , not amend our By Laws. I think this should be done by a special committee and their recommendation be presented to the Board. The Board must then bring this By Law Revision to a vote at a General meeting. Our present By Laws as quoted below, makes it very easy to do this.

From our By Laws - Article IX reads:

"These By-Laws may be amended by the majority vote of a quorum of the members entitled to vote at any meeting of the corporation." You will note - it does not stipulate that any advance notification to anyone is required.

Footnote *a - Research books used were:

- * Roberts Rules of Order - Bantam Books
- * DeMeter's Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure. - Little, Brown and Co.

Most organizations use one of these as basis for their documents.

Orv Stewart KA9ONQ

Listed below are my qualifications as a Parliamentarian consultant.

- * Parliamentarian (8 years) Optimist International
Average meeting attendance 3700
- * On Policy Committee of Optimist's Wisconsin-Upper Mich District. District has 134 clubs - 4000 members.
- * At present working, in conjunction with Synod, on revising the constitution of local Lutheran church.